

City Lights

A Business to Business Publication from Marietta Power

Spring 2003

Gone With the Wind Museum Kicks Off June with Events that Feature Original Movie Cast Members

Marietta's new *Gone With the Wind* Museum will provide you with opportunities to meet at least four members of the *Gone With the Wind* (GWTW) movie cast during the weekend of June 6-7, 2003, when the museum hosts a series of special events to kick off the summer season.



The cast members who have been confirmed for the weekend's events include: **Cammie**

King (Bonnie Blue Butler); **Mickey Kuhn** ("young" Beau Wilkes); **Patrick Curtis** ("baby" Beau Wilkes); and **Fred Crane** (Brent Tarleton). The group will make their first appearance in the Marietta Square on Friday night, when museum officials will introduce the cast members to fans during the **Barbecue at Twelve Oaks** in Marietta Square. Several downtown restaurants will offer special barbecue items on their menus to ensure that no one goes home hungry. The cast member introductions will take place during the evening's outdoor musical entertainment. Also, on Friday evening, the cast members will judge a costume contest and sign autographs at the Marietta Welcome Center. The Marietta Conference Center will host a breakfast with the cast members on Saturday morning.

"These events will provide Cobb County residents with an excellent opportunity to acquaint themselves with the new collection of *Gone With the Wind* memorabilia we

have on display," said **Holly Cothran Drake**, the museum's exhibit director. "We think visitors will also like the structural changes we made to improve the flow of the museum so people get the feeling that it's telling a story."

The new exhibit showcases the memorabilia collection of **Dr. Chris Sullivan**, an endocrinologist from Akron, Ohio, who has collected GWTW-related items since he read the book in the sixth grade. The collection includes a wider range of items than the museum's previous exhibit, which focused primarily on the movie. The collection has also appeared at Kent State University, the prestigious Walter Greer Gallery at the Self Family Arts Center in Hilton Head, S.C., and at Disney World.

The lower level of Marietta's new GWTW museum features background information on GWTW author Margaret Mitchell and includes vintage newspaper articles, a signed first edition of her book, various foreign editions and book posters, and a series of movie posters depicting

the now world famous "flaming embrace" of Scarlett and Rhett. The second level includes displays of film-related memos from movie company executives, information on the Search for Scarlett, memorabilia from the movie's premiere in Atlanta, and an exhibit of the African-American actors who appeared in the movie. Other items on display include original books, lithographs, and programs autographed by Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Olivia deHavilland, Leslie Howard, and Hattie McDaniel.

The second level also offers a close look at the stunning bengaline gown, which Scarlett wore in the honeymoon scene with Rhett Butler in New Orleans. Made from ecru silk bengaline and black lace, the dress is so unique that the Kent State University Museum built an entire exhibit around it in 1998.

The museum's third level gives visitors a lighthearted glance at the many collectible items that the book and movie have generated throughout the years.

"The collectibles display includes many vintage items that

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Cobb Aquatic Center Receives Major Renovation

Recent renovations to the Aquatic Center at 520 Fairground Street, behind the Cobb County Civic Center, have made the facility an even more valuable asset to residents of the county and the City of Marietta.

"We repainted, replaced or refurbished every square inch of the facility to a like new condition," said Bob McCallister, aquatics manager of the Cobb County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs. "The renovations made the facility brighter, more aesthetically pleasing, and more energy efficient than ever before."

For example, the center added windows

and a more efficient lighting system to increase light levels inside the facility. The center also replaced its old dehumidifier system with a more energy-efficient model that maintains a constant air temperature of 83 degrees

Fahrenheit and 55 percent relative humidity inside the facility. The new system also captures heat energy from the compressors that charge the refrigerant, and uses that energy to heat the pool water, shower water, and reheating coils to heat the natatorium air.

In addition, the facility replaced its entire roof, solved pre-existing insulation problems, refurbished or replaced all equipment and

wall treatments throughout the facility, resurfaced both pools, and completely overhauled its weight room workout facility. The renovation of the Aquatic Center, which became the county's first indoor recreational facility when it opened in 1985, began in July 2002 and ended last October.

Since that time, activity at the center has increased steadily. The center offers instructional programs and swimming lessons for infants to senior citizens, aquatic exercise programs, lap swimming for adults, and family swim times. The facility has one instructional and recreational diving pool that features two 1-meter diving boards and a 3-meter diving board. The center also has a 25-yard, 10-lane lap pool for use in general conditioning and competitions.

"Throughout the year, we have 120 swim team kids who work out each day," McCallister said. "In addition, during the winter months, six local high school swim teams work out here. We also have 40 divers from this facility who compete in Metro Atlanta Diving throughout the year."

"In all, more than 60 percent of the people we serve live inside the City of Marietta," he added. "For example, a number of local businessmen start their day here each morning."

The center opens at 6 a.m. and remains open until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The cost of using the facility is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and seniors. The center also offers year-round

passes; \$180 for adults and \$120 for youth or seniors. For information on monthly or quarterly passes, please call (770) 528-8465.

"For the citizens we serve, this facility really is the best swimming and training facility available for the price," McCallister said.

For as long as McCallister can remember, Marietta Power has played an important role in helping the Aquatic Center provide this tremendous value to Cobb residents.

"We rely on electrical power to keep the water circulating through our filtration system, maintain our climate controls, and give us enough light to ensure the safety of our patrons," McCallister said. "We have depended on Marietta Power to provide us with this electricity for all the years I have worked with the Cobb County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs."

"Before the renovation, we occasionally had electrical problems and called Marietta Power for help," he added. "Marietta Power always responded within a matter of minutes and helped us identify the problem, even though the problems usually turned out to be internal."

Cobb County officials also appreciate the competitive rates offered by Marietta Power. McCallister said county officials examine the unique needs of each county facility when selecting an energy supplier for the location.

"We are a satisfied customer," McCallister said. "We have always received exceptional service from Marietta Power." ✎



GWTW Kick Off, Continued from page 1

you can't find anymore," CothranDrake said. "Many people think that movie commercialization began with *Star Wars*, but we have examples of merchandise tie-ins with *Gone With the Wind* dating back to 1939 and 1940."

The city's contract with Dr. Sullivan extends for three years. They also believe the new exhibits will attract more people than ever before.

"Dr. Sullivan is apparently very well-respected among other GWTW collectors, and he has a sterling reputation," said Bill Bruton, Marietta City Manager. "We feel

confident that with this new exhibit we can establish a good relationship with other GWTW venues around Metro Atlanta, making it a win-win for everybody."

CothranDrake has already received encouragement from the Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau (Road to Tara Museum) and Herb Bridges. A recent message she received from them reads: "The Clayton County Convention & Visitors Bureau (Road to Tara Museum) and Herb Bridges, GWTW collector, congratulate Chris Sullivan on his recent museum contract with the City of Marietta. Mr. Bridges

has known Dr. Sullivan for over a decade where they have both participated in numerous *Gone With the Wind* events."

The museum is also available for special events rental. For more information, please call Holly CothranDrake at (770) 794-5145. ✎

City Lights

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City Lights

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Employee Profile



Jerry McGuirt

Jerry McGuirt Enjoys Life and Helping Others

Jerry McGuirt, supervisor of the Meters and Services Division of Marietta Power, plays a variety of important roles for the City of Marietta.

For starters, he supervises a staff of 17 employees who gather information from the city's more than 60,000 electric and water meters. He also has responsibility for Marietta's mail and copy center, which handles utility billing, municipal tax notices, and all other official correspondence for the city. McGuirt even coordinates the crews responsible for maintaining the exterior of the Board of Lights and Water (BLW) building and surrounding grounds.

"I never know what to expect when I come to work each morning," McGuirt said. "It certainly makes my job interesting."

McGuirt focuses much of his effort on maintaining the division's high accuracy rate with regard to meter readings. His team's meter readings currently grade out as 99.98-percent accurate.

"The national average is only 98 percent," he said. "The high accuracy rate that our division has achieved reflects the dedication of everyone who works here."

McGuirt also understands the challenges each member of the division faces on a daily basis because he worked as a meter reader himself for a number of years. He joined

Marietta Power as a meter reader in 1972 and remained in the job for five years before trying his hand in the retail business. McGuirt returned in 1982, however, and has remained with the utility ever since. He became the division's supervisor in the late 1980s.

McGuirt has witnessed many changes during his years with the BLW.

"When I came to work here, we had to take big meter books out in the community and manually write down meter readings," he said. "Then, we had to bring the books back to headquarters where a data entry person had to key all the information into a mainframe computer. If it rained or we had other inclement weather, we couldn't take the readings, because they had to be written down legibly.

"Today, we have handheld devices that allow us to enter information in the field and then automatically transfer the data into the billing computers," he continued. "We have also begun utilizing remote meter-reading technology in areas that are inaccessible or dangerous, such as locations with locked gates or guard dogs. This technology uses radio transmitters to relay the readings to us, which has improved our productivity and made things a lot safer for us."

In addition to overseeing the meter reading crews' activities, McGuirt spends a great deal of time supervising the city's printing and mailing operation. The office produces and distributes more than 40,000 utility bills per

month, as well as all the municipal tax notices, correspondence related to business licenses, and every other piece of mail generated by the City of Marietta. This group also has the responsibility for maintaining the city's entire fleet of copy machines.

"Keeping all the machines up to speed and outfitted with supplies presents quite a challenge, but I enjoy helping people and try to do so in every aspect of my life," he said. "That's also why I enjoy providing our customers with quality service."

This dedication to helping others extends far beyond his work environment. For example, McGuirt has served for a number of years on the board of Marietta Employees Charitable Contributions Association, the charitable organization operated by city employees. On Sunday, he also serves as pastor of the Glade Road Baptist Church in Acworth, where McGuirt and wife, Sheila, reside. The couple have three children: daughter, April (28), son, Chris (25), and son, Jeremy (21). Jeremy, who races stock cars at local dirt tracks on weekends, also works for the BLW in the distribution division. McGuirt said he attends as many of his son's races as possible.

He also collects antique soda bottles and soda bottle advertising in his spare time.

"I believe that God gave us life and wants us to enjoy it," he said. "And I do." ✎

Farmer's Market to Open in Downtown Marietta

Local merchant and Downtown Business Association member, Johnny Fulmer, recently announced that a new Farmer's Market would soon open in the parking lot at the corner of Church and Hansell Streets in downtown Marietta.

"Marietta has been without a farmer's market for several years," said Fulmer, "and we keep hearing that everybody wants one."

Mary Beth Martin will serve as coordinator for the market, which will provide homegrown vegetables, fresh fruit, beautiful garden flowers, homemade desserts, and many other tasty treats. Marietta residents can visit the market every Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon.

"I am pleased that Mary Beth and I can work together to make it happen," Fulmer said. "The market should bring a lot more people

downtown on Saturday mornings. Everybody wants fresh vegetables during the summer."

Local vendors interested in selling their produce should contact Martin at (770) 514-9508. She says they want to be certain the market offers a variety of produce, not a lot of the same thing.

Beth Tippins, downtown coordinator for Marietta's Economic Development Department, has worked closely with Fulmer, Martin and others to help get the market started.

"Everyone who has heard about it is excited," said Tippins. "It will be an attractive asset for the downtown business area, while providing Marietta and Cobb County residents with fresh homegrown goods close to home." ✎

June 6-7

Gone With the Wind Weekend Extravaganza
Call (770) 794-5145
for information

June 7

Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest
Jim Miller Park
Call (770) 955-6446
for information

June 13-15

BMX Dixieland Nationals
Jim Miller Park
Call (770) 973-6435
for information

June 21-22

Rodeo
Jim Miller Park
8 p.m.
Call (770) 419-9234
for information

June 27

Glover Park Concert Series
Marietta Square
8 p.m.
Call (770) 794-5601
for information

Now through June 15

"Mahalia" by Tom Stolz
Theatre in the Square
Call (770) 422-8369
for tickets and information

July 26

Second Annual Marietta Benefit Bazaar
"Treasures from the Attic"
9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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